

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 685

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Reverend Reneé Kesler
for her contributions to her community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Reverend Reneé Kesler, an outstanding community and religious leader with a passion for helping people and making a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kesler has served for thirty years as an associate minister under the leadership of Reverend Leroy Franklin at Mount Calvary Baptist Church; she serves in various capacities, including as a Sunday school teacher, Christian family fellowship teacher, and superintendent of vacation Bible school, and lends her skills and expertise to In Thy Word Ministry, the audio/visual ministry, and minister's training and educational classes; and

WHEREAS, committed to public service and her community, Reneé Kesler has served on over forty boards and committees; a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she served as chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission for ten years; she has received a number of appointments to important groups and organizations, namely Bill Haslam's mayoral transition team and Industrial Development Board and Mayor Victor Ashe's Knoxville Community Development Corporation, which she served as commissioner; and

WHEREAS, currently, Reverend Kesler serves as president of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, a primary repository of Black history and culture in East Tennessee; she is also a member of the Fort Sanders Champlain's Office, where she volunteers weekly as a Stephen Minister; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kesler graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Leadership Knoxville, and the University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associate Program and is currently enrolled in Covington Theological Seminary, pursuing a Master of Ministry degree followed by a Doctorate of Ministry degree; she is a professional instructor with the University of Tennessee Department of Professional and Personal Development, Continuing Education; and

WHEREAS, she has earned numerous honors, including AHERN 2019 Minister of the Year Distinguished Service Award, Bronze Woman of the Year in 2007-2008, ELHC Impact Women's Ministry 2018 Legacy Award, and the Delta Sigma Theta Black Family of the Year award in 2001; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Reneé Kesler is grateful for the love and support she shares with her husband, Christopher, and their daughters, Crystal Kesler, Esq., and Sydney Kesler; and

WHEREAS, Reneé Kesler epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Reneé Kesler for her many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and honor Reverend Reneé Kesler for her contributions to her community and her faith and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.